

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ALEXAN 00906 220930Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 ACDA-10 /071 W
-----129500 221239Z /43

R 220905Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1180

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE/ECJ2

EUDAC VAIHINGEN GE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

FICEURLANT CODE 20 NORFOLK VA

COMSIXTHFLT

COMIDEASTFOR

COMNAVINTCOM ALEXANDRIA VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

COMSC WASHDC

UNCLAS ALEXANDRIA 0906

CAIRO FOR USDAO

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ASAF PINS

SUBJECT: RENEWED USE OF UNDERWATER EXPLOSIVES IN ALEXANDRIA HARBOR

REF: CAIRO 0191 (DTG 051240Z JAN 77, USDAO CAIRO 041615Z JAN 77

AND PREVIOUS

1. CONGEN HAD INFORMALLY LEARNED RECENTLY THAT GOE SECURITY FORCES
AT ALEXANDRIA PORT HAVE RESUMED NIGHTLY "UNDERWATER DEMOLITION"
ACTIVITIES (ANTI-UDT PERCUSSION GRENADES) WHICH HAD ALLEGEDLY
BEEN ORDERED HALTED (REFTELS).

2. MASTER OF SS EXPORT AMBASSADOR HAS JUST FILED FORMAL MARINE
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NOTICE OF PROTEST ON 22 AUGUST 1977, REPORTING DROPPING OF "DEPTH
BOMBS" AROUND HIS SHIP, AT POSITION B-4 IN THE OUTER ANCHORAGE,
NEAR MIDNIGHT 18 AUGUST 1977. HE SAID ONE BOMB "WAS DROPPED SO
CLOSE TO THE VESSEL'S STARBOARD SIDE THAT THE SHIP WAS SHAKEN AS
IF A COLLISION HAD OCCURED." HE HAS INFORMED SHIPS AGENT,
REQUESTING PORT AUTHORITIES BE NOTIFIED AND ALSO REQUESTING HULL
SURVEY BY LOCAL SURVEYOR OF AMERICAN BUREAU OF SHIPPING.

3. PRINCIPAL SURVEYOR, MOSSAAD REZEKA, SAID IT UNNECESSARY CONDUCT UNDERWATER SURVEY "BECAUSE THIS HAS BEEN NORMAL PRACTICE FOR THE PORT OF ALEXANDRIA OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME (AND) THERE NEVER HAS BEEN ANY INCIDENT OF DAMAGE REPORTED BECAUSE OF THESE DEPTH CHARGES." FYI - THERE HAS BEEN REPORTED DAMAGES (SEE USDAO REFTEL AND 76 ALEXANDRIA 0688 (NOTAL)). END FYI.

4. WHEN CONGEN MENTIONED CASE OF GERMAN RESEARCH SHIP DAMAGE (ABOVE), CAPTAIN SAID: "WHY, OF COURSE. THAT'S THE PROBLEM. MY FATHOMETER WENT OUT AND THE ELECTRICIAN HAS SPENT TWO DAYS WORKING ON IT BUT CAN'T FIND THE TROUBLE." COMMENT - ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF FATHOMETER IS TRANSDUCER WHICH IS FIXED ON OUTER SKIN OF HULL, USUALLY NEAR KEEL. - END COMMENT.

5. ACTION CAIRO: FROM WHAT WE CAN LEARN, RESUMPTION OF THIS ACTIVITY PREDATES BORDER FLARE-UP WITH LIBYA, BUT MAY REFLECT BUILDING TENSIONS OF THAT DISPUTE. EVEN SO, WE BELIEVE USDAO SHOULD GET NEW READING FROM MINISTRY OF WAR AND, AT VERY LEAST, PLEAD FOR MORE DISCRETION IN USE OF CONCUSSION GRENADES NEAR SENSITIVE MACHINERY AND INSTRUMENTS OF MODERN OCEAN VESSELS. CHASE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 22-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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